ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image forming apparatus is provided with a controller which distinguishes the type of original from image data obtained by prescanning an original image and selects image processing parameters suited to the type of original. When automatic image forming mode is selected, the controller outputs, depending on whether a user has selected monochrome or multi-color image processing operation, a control signal indicating whether or not to prescan the original image to obtain information necessary for distinguishing the type of original to an image scanning unit.